

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Addendum

MIHP Number: B-3585

Property Name: Koester's Bakery
Property Address: 634-642 W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Based on a site visit conducted on December 14, 2005 by John Milner Associates, on behalf of Maryland Mass Transit Administration (MTA), this property is no longer extant.

B-3585
Koester's Bakery

c. 1916

Koester's Bakery, an early twentieth century commercial structure, consists of a low basement of dressed granite, a three-story middle section united by colossal pilasters, and an attic story separated from the rest of the facade by a large metal and wood dentilled cornice. A secondary metal cornice completes the primary elevation and is topped by a brick parapet.

The building is decorated by panels of elaborate brick work in the attic story which contain granite, lozenge shaped ornaments.

The Bakery represents the circa 1916 building erected for the Koesler business, a local concern begun in 1887 by Ernest H. Koesler.

The current owner of the structure, the University of Maryland, should develop an adaptive re-use proposal which will take advantage of the structure's considerable potential and thus preserve the historic streetscape it shares with Pascault Row, directly opposite.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Koester's Bakery

AND/OR COMMON

Koester's Bakery, 634-642 West Lexington Street

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

634-642 West Lexington Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore, MD

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

COUNTY

Baltimore City

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER abandoned

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

State of Maryland/University of Maryland

Telephone #: 853-3683

STREET & NUMBER

Office of University Planning, University of Maryland

CITY, TOWN

College Park, MD

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

20742

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore City Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Calvert and Fayette Streets

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore, MD

STATE

Liber #:

Folio #:

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The principal (south) facade of the Koester's Bakery is composed of sixteen bays. From west to east, the building contains a one-bay unfenestrated section one story taller than the rest of the building; the thirteen bays of the main block; and three vertical sections: a very low basement of dressed granite, a three-story section united by colossal pilasters and an attic story separated from that below by a large metal and wood dentilled cornice. A simpler metal cornice finishes the elevation with a brick parapet above, with vertical projections marking the location of the pilasters.

The style of Koester's Bakery is early twentieth century commercial, a simple Art Deco characterized by elaborate brickwork with an occasional granite ornament. The only three-dimensional articulation of the wall is a setback for the window frames which gives the pilasters the appearance of being in relief.

The principal entrance is two bays west of the central bay of the central block and has been altered with glass block and brick but retains an original wooden pediment with dentils on the interior rake. All major ground floor windows have been sealed with brick; the rectangular basement windows remain.

The cornice molding which backs the entrance pediment continues behind pilasters to the east and in a slightly different form to the west. Above this are three part windows in all bays, squares flanked by vertical rectangles of awning sash with center pivots. Surmounting these are blind panels of fancy brickwork with two granite, diamond-shaped ornaments each except above the entrance where a large stone plaque is located. The plaque is inscribed and gilded, reading: "KOESTER'S-BAKERY 1886-1916". The level above is characterized by three part, double hung sash with transoms surmounted by the major cornice. The windows of the attic story are also tripartite but are separated by brick instead of wooden mullions as elsewhere. The two eastern bays terminate with parapet above the decorative panels, with stone coping. The pilasters and wall just behind rise above the parapet for a stepped effect. The space for the large lower windows seems always to have been blank in these two bays.

The tops of all pilasters are ornamented with stylized brickwork below the main cornice and with granite insets. This ornament is carried into the western bay although there are no openings there.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1916

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to the vertical files at the Maryland Room of the Enoch Pratt Library, the Koester bakery business was started by Ernest H. Koester in 1887. The city directories of Baltimore first mention the bakery in 1891. Ernest H. Koester is listed as a baker with a store located at 894 West Baltimore Street and a residence at 646 West Lexington Street.

During World War I, Ernest's son William Koester expanded the operations of the bakery and widened the area covered by the delivery routes. The 1920 Baltimore City Directory indicated that the business had relocated at 634-642 West Lexington Street, to the present premises which are now abandoned.

Koester's Bakery represents a fine example of early twentieth century commercial architecture with distinctive ornamental detailing. The University of Maryland should develop an adaptive reuse proposal which will take advantage of the structure's considerable potential and thus preserve the historic streetscape it shares with Pascault Row, directly opposite.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Vertical files, Maryland Room of the Enoch Pratt Library.

Baltimore City Directories.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Bridget M. Deale and John D. Hnedak, Historic Site Surveyors

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

December 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, MD 21401

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

W.

SARATOGA STREET

B-3585

BORN COURT

BORN COURT

FORMER KOESTERS BAKERY

B-3585

ARCH STREET

STREET

W. LEXINGTON STREET

PASCAULT ROW

N. GREENE
ST. LOTS 844

W. VINE STREET

RL

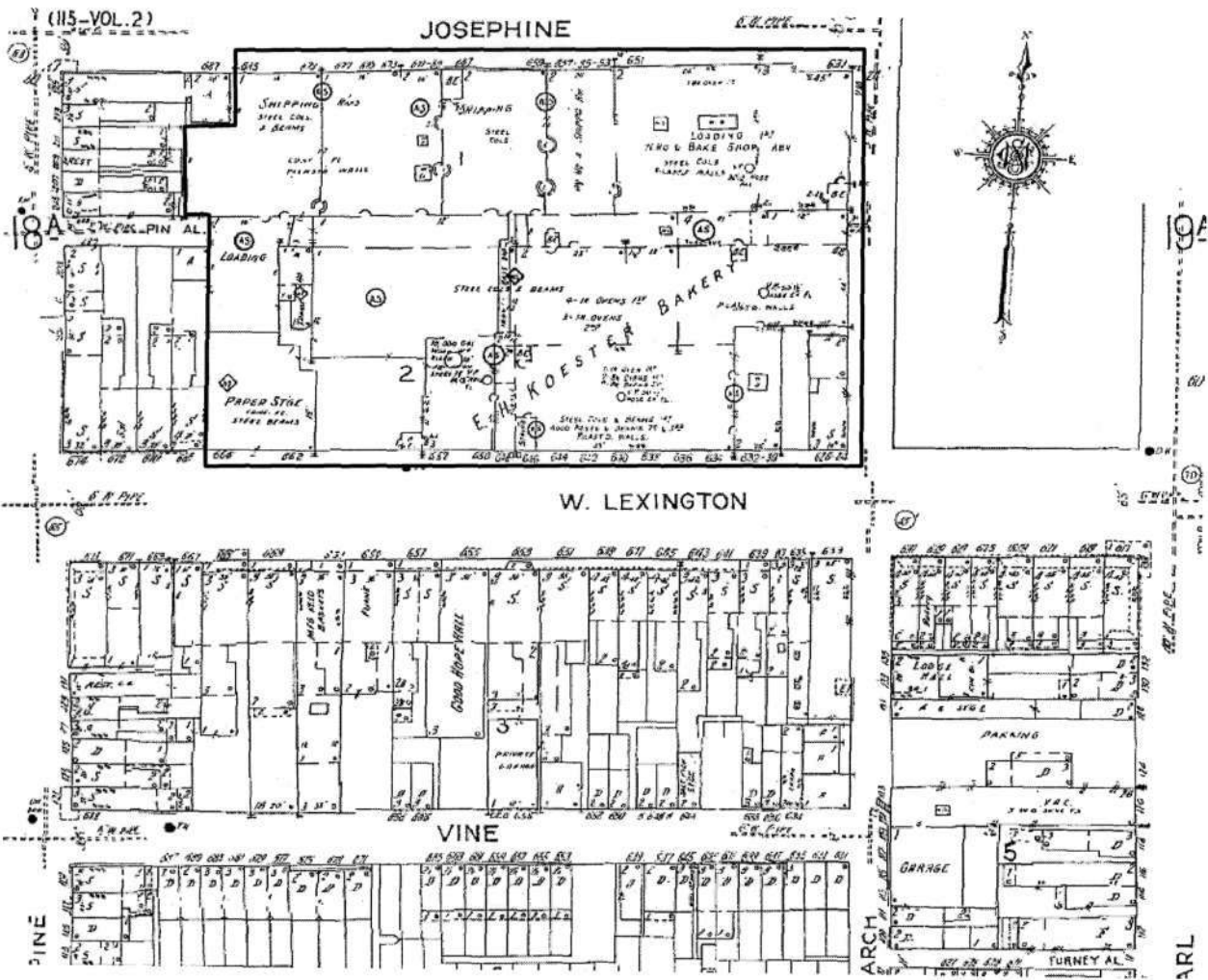
GO AVE

85

613

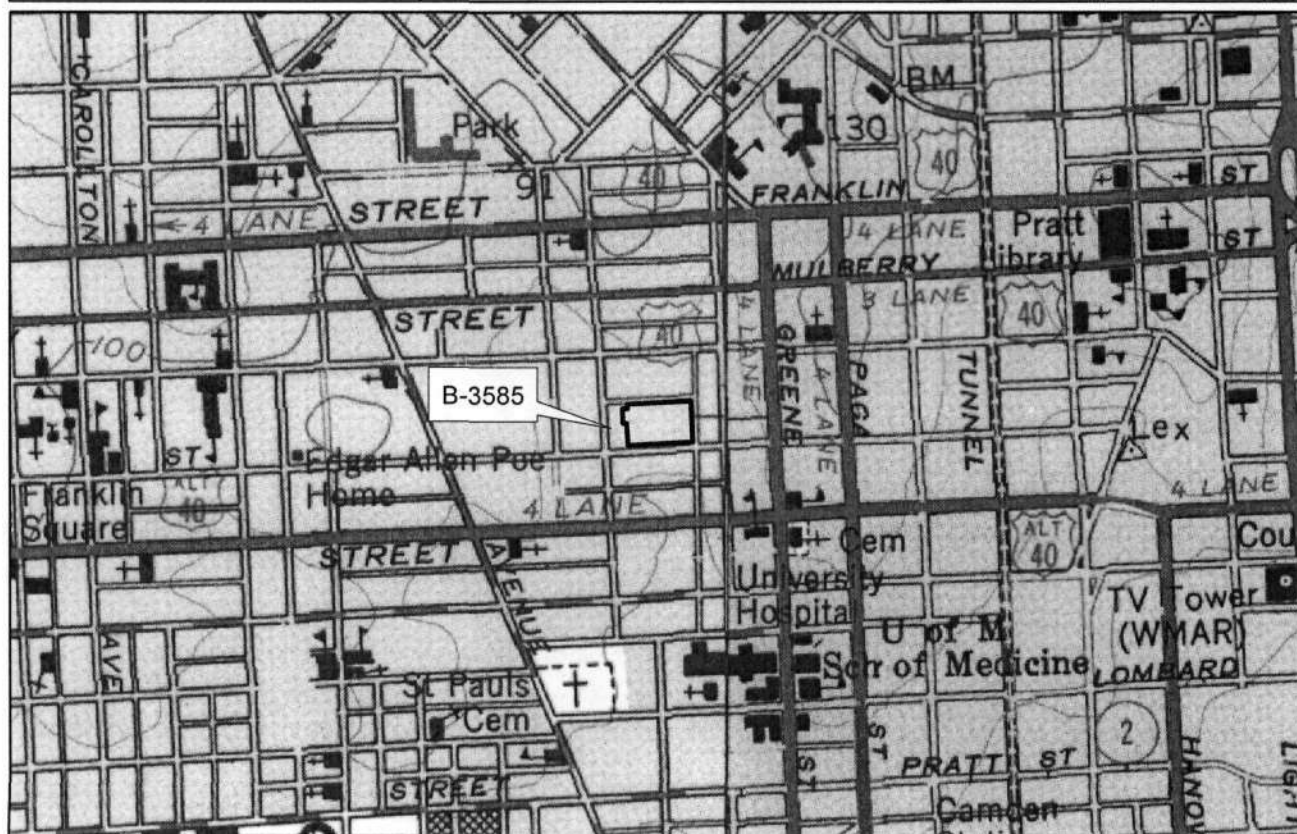
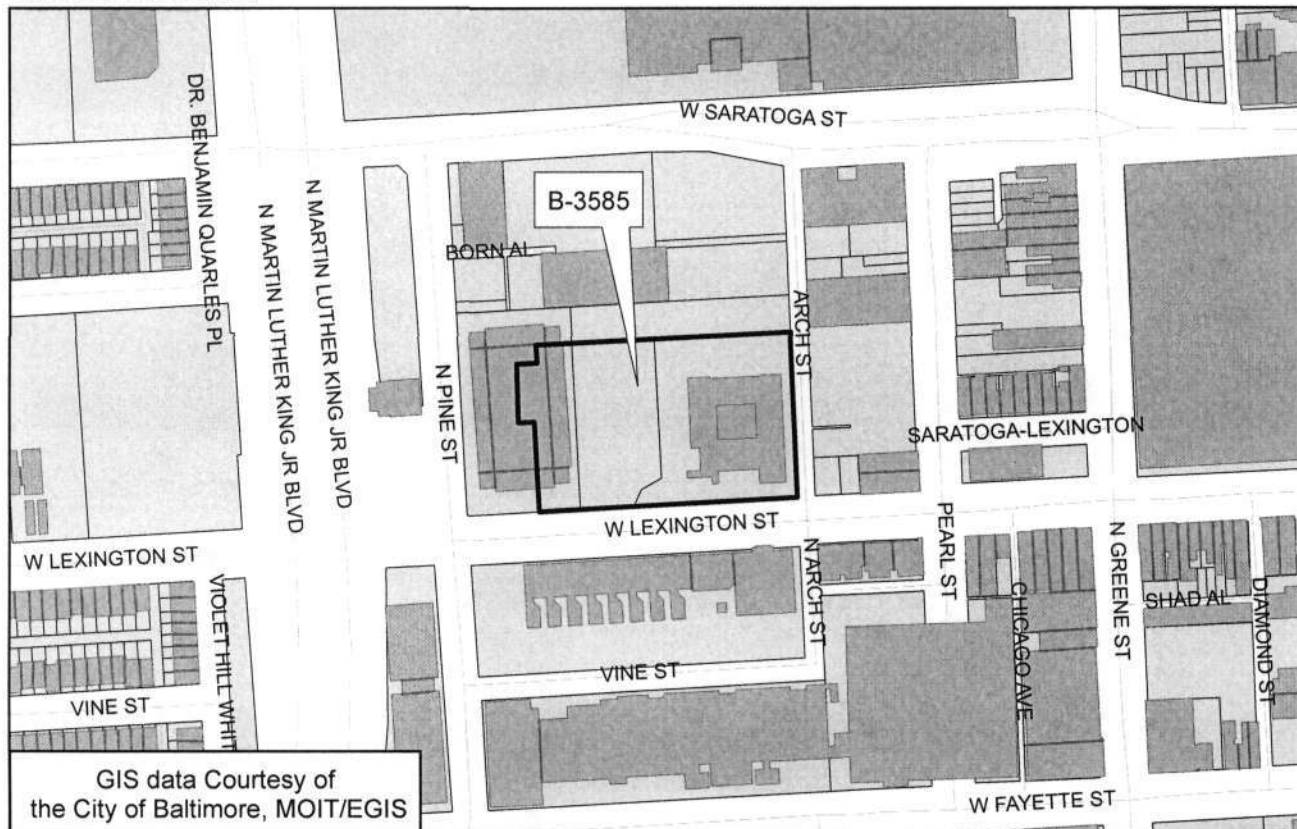
616

B-3585
Koester's Bakery, site
634-642 W. Lexington Street
Baltimore
Sanborn Baltimore 1914-1953 vol. 1A, 1914, Sheet 29A



B-3585
Koester's Bakery
634-642 W. Lexington Street
Block 0590 Lots 001 & 020-021
Baltimore City
Baltimore West Quad

Demolished





KOESTER'S BAKERY - 650 W. LEXINGTON ST.
BALTIMORE, MD. 21201 MAY 16, 1983
PHOTOGRAPHER - PHILIP SZCZEPANSKI
EXTERIOR - LOOKING NORTHWEST

B-3585



8-3585

KOESTER'S BAKERY - 650 W. LEXINGTON F.
BALTIMORE, MD. 21201 MAY 16, 1983
PHOTOGRAPHER - PHILIP SZCZEPANSKI
EXTERIOR - LOOKING NORTHEAST



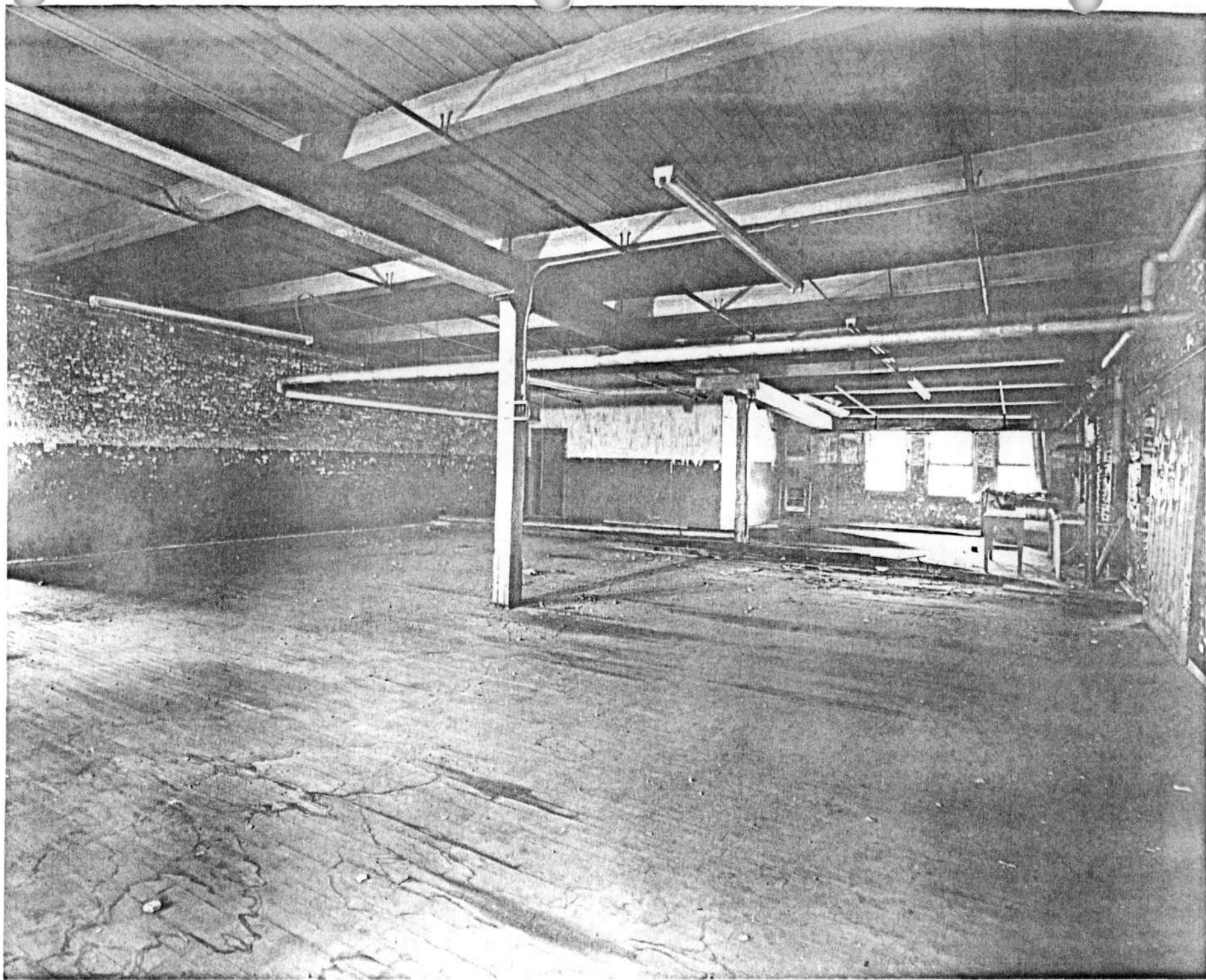
KOESTERS'S BAKERY - 650 W. LEXINGTON ST.
BALTIMORE, MD. 21201 May 16, 1983
PHOTOGRAPHER - PHILIP SZCZEPANSKI
EXTERIOR - LOOKING SOUTHWEST

B-3585



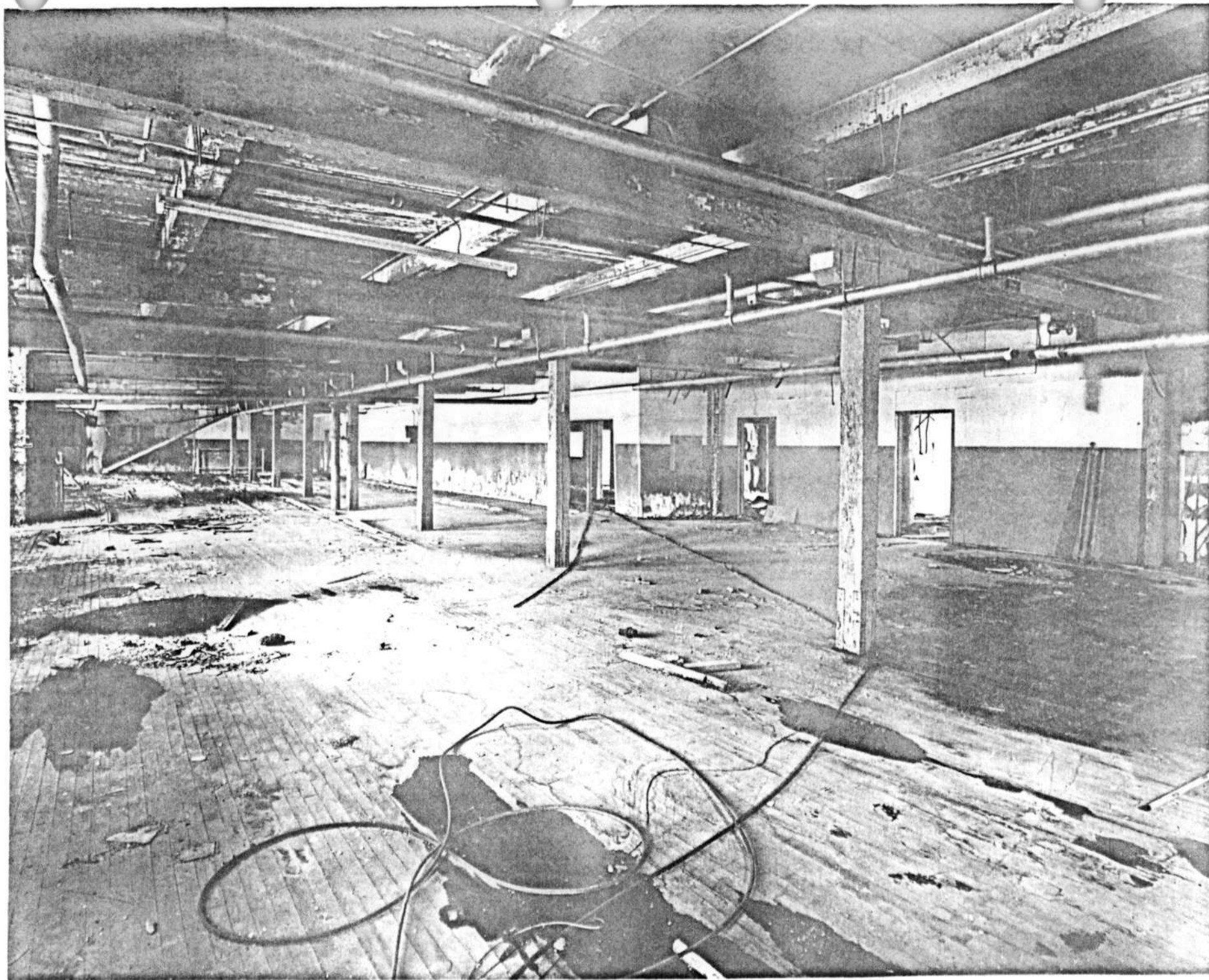
KOESTER'S BAKERY - 650 W. LEXINGTON ST.
BALTIMORE, MD. 21201 MAY 16, 1983
PHOTOGRAPHER - PHILIP SZCZEPANSKI
EXTERIOR - LOOKING SOUTHEAST

B-3585



B-3585

KOESTER'S BAKERY - 650 W. LEXINGTON ST.
BALTIMORE, MD. 21201 MAY 16, 1983
PHOTOGRAPHER - PHILIP SZCZEPANSKI
THIRD FLOOR - LOOKING SOUTHWEST



B-3585

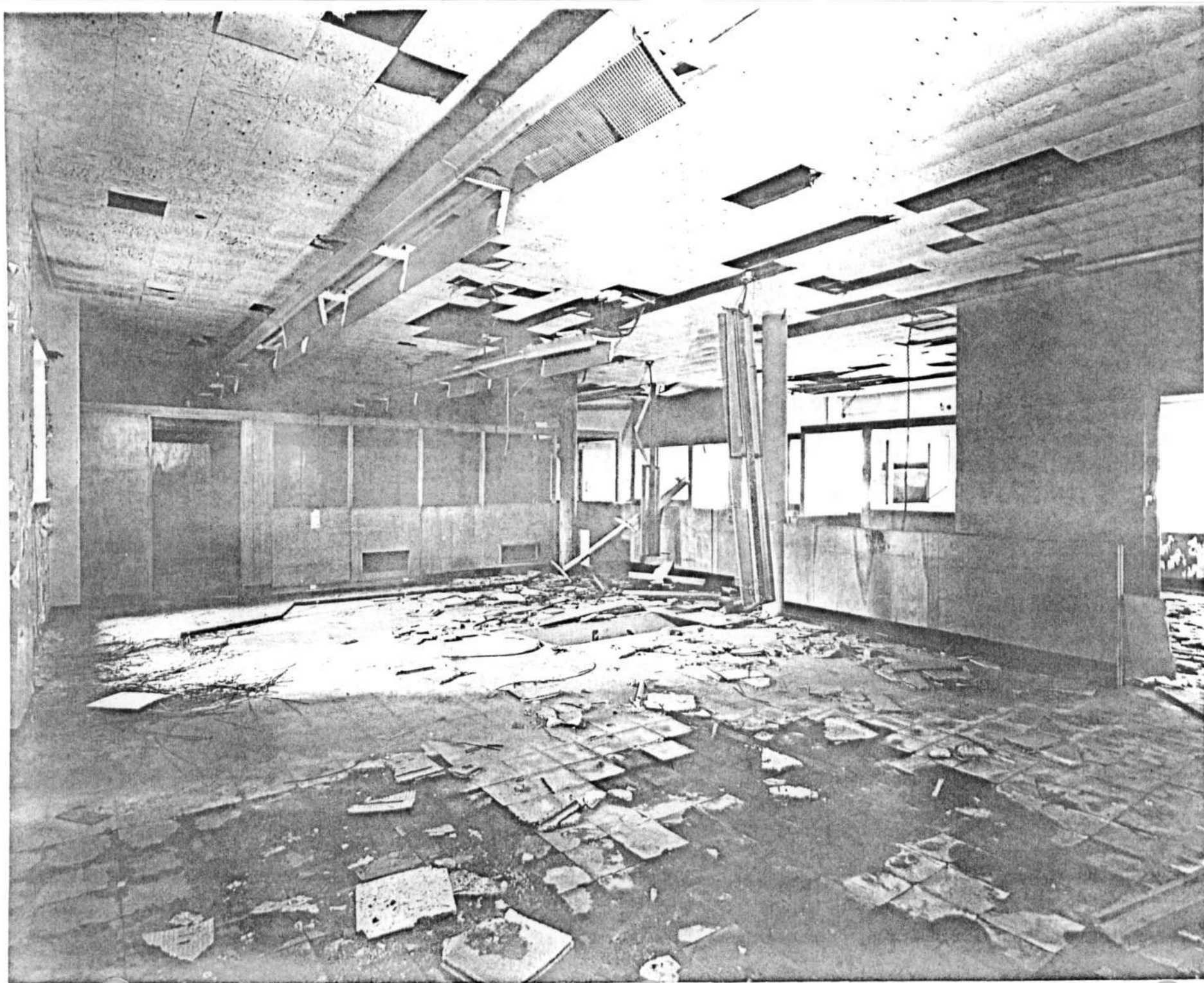
KOESTER'S BAKERY - 650 W. LEXINGTON ST.

BALTIMORE, MD. 21201 MAY 16, 1963

PHOTOGRAPHER - PHILIP SZCZEPANSKI

THIRD FLOOR - LOOKING SOUTHEAST

B-3585



B-3585

KOESTER'S BAKERY - 650 W. LEXINGTON ST.

BALTIMORE, MD. 21201 MAY 16, 1983

PHOTOGRAPHER - PHILIP SZCZEPANSKI

SECOND FLOOR - LOOKING SOUTHEAST



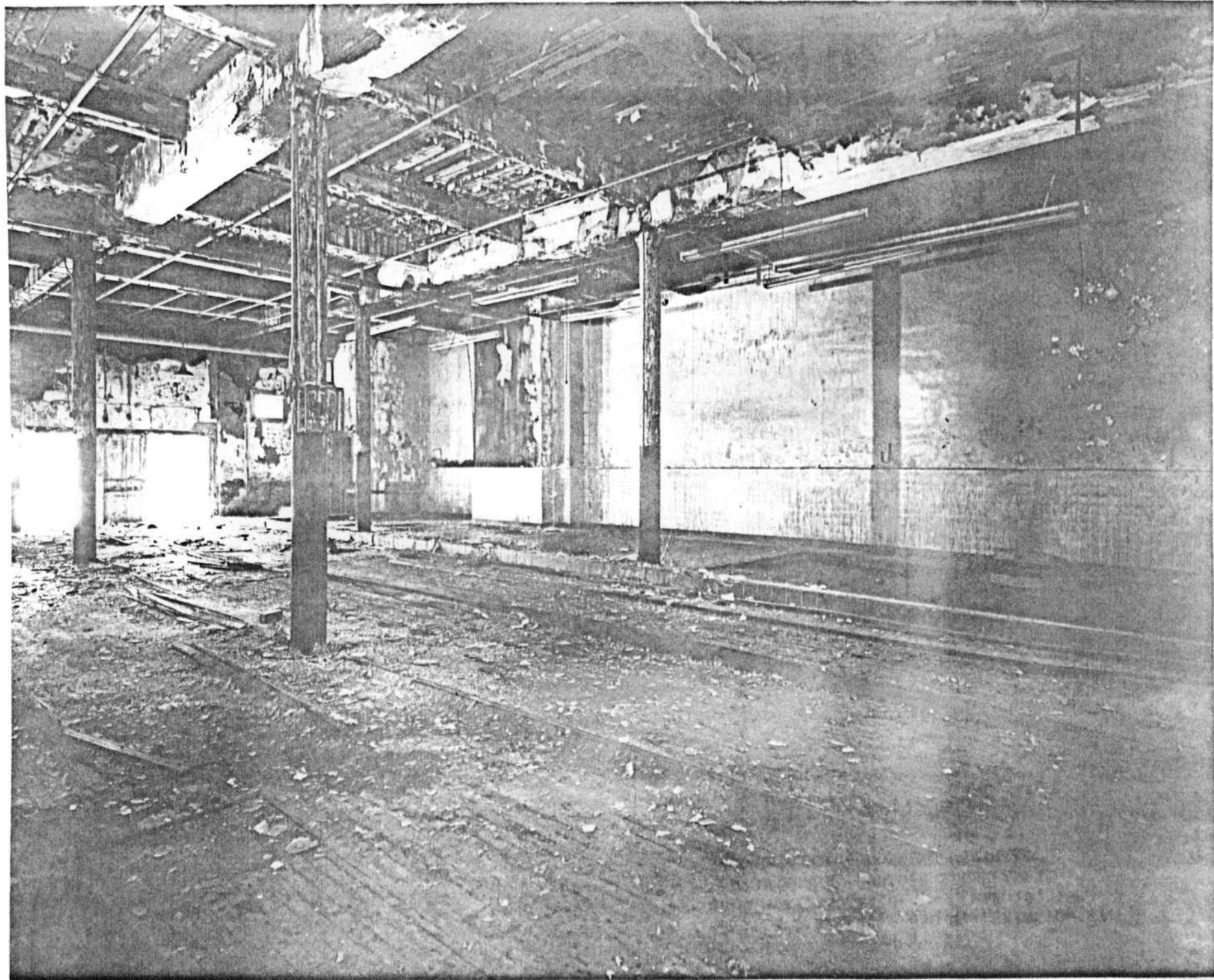
B-3585

KOESTER'S BAKERY - 650 W. LEXINGTON ST.

BALTIMORE, MD. 21201 MAY 16, 1983

PHOTOGRAPHER - PHILIP SZCZEPANSKI

SECOND FLOOR - LOOKING NORTHEAST



B-3585

KOESTER'S BAKERY - 650 W. LEXINGTON ST.
BALTIMORE, MD. 21201 MAY 16, 1983

PHOTOGRAPHER - PHILIP SZCZEPANSKI

SECOND FLOOR - LOOKING NORTHEAST



KOESTER' S BAKERY - 650 W. LEXINGTON ST.
BALTIMORE, MD. 21201 MAY 16, 1983
PHOTOGRAPHER - PHILIP SZCZEPANSKI
FIRST FLOOR - LOOKING EAST

B-3585



B-3585

Koester's Bakery

W. Lexington St., Baltimore, MD

(UMAB)

Northeast elevation.

12/79 E. Cox